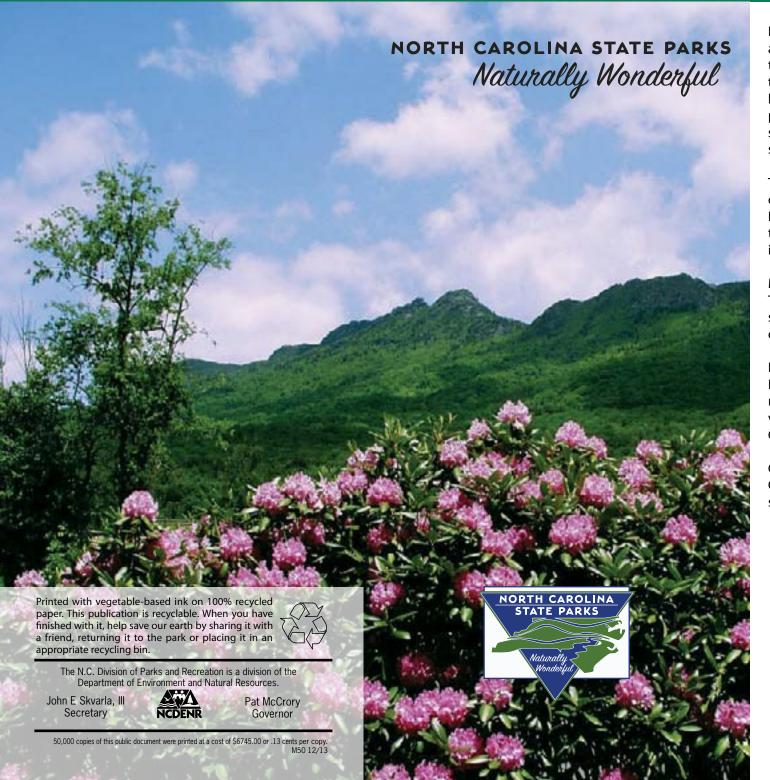
Naturally Wonderful









North Carolina's state parks are "Naturally Wonderful" and also wonderfully diverse. With 41 state park units, the system stretches from the highest sand dune on the East Coast at Jockey's Ridge to Mount Mitchell, the highest point in the eastern United States. Between these points, you'll find mysterious bay lakes, wild swamps, rare sandhills, piedmont river systems and bold mountain streams.

The parks system was established in 1916 when a group of citizens sought to protect the summit of Mount Mitchell. It became the first state park in the Southeast and among the first in the nation. Many of the state parks were initiated by local citizens with a strong conservation ethic.

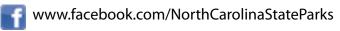
More than 14 million people visit the state parks each year. The state parks system employs park rangers and park superintendents who are commissioned law enforcement officers.

Education is also a hallmark of North Carolina state parks. Rangers offer free interpretive programs that reveal the marvels of each park. Many parks have state-of-the-art visitor centers and exhibit halls to help you explore North Carolina's cultural and natural heritage.

Conservation, recreation and education are what North Carolina state parks are all about. A visit to any of them can show you why they're "Naturally Wonderful."



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